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California State Senate

SENATOR
THOMAS MCCLINTOCK
NINETEENTH SENATE DISTRICT



COMMITTEES
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TRANSPORTATION & HOUSING
MEMBER OF
BUDGET AND FISCAL REVIEW
GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION

SUBCOMMITTEE
BUDGET SUB 4
(STATE ADMINISTRATION, GOVERNMENT
& TRANSPORTATION)

JOINT COMMITTEES
LEGISLATIVE AUDIT
LEGISLATIVE BUDGET

March 26, 2007

Doug Bosco, Chairman
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1300
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mr. Bosco:

I strongly urge the Coastal Conservancy to approve the Land Trust for Santa Barbara County's application and proposal for the stabilization of approximately 1500 linear feet of river bank during the implementation of the Rancho La Vina Bank Restoration Project. Bank failure in the county's creek and river systems threaten natural habitat and can drastically reduce crop production in areas that are susceptible to erosion. The stabilization of the river bank at Rancho La Vina will improve native habitat conditions and maximize water quality in the river system by reducing excessive sediment loads and providing a buffer to agricultural run off.

The project is a model of collaboration among a non-profit organization, government agencies and a private landowner. This is what the people of California envisioned in the passage of Proposition 50 (Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Fund of 2002). The project will also receive support in the form of funding provided by the California Department of Fish and Game Fisheries Restoration Grant Program and in-kind assistance and labor by the private agricultural landowner affected.

Improved water quality and enhanced in-stream habitat for steelhead will help assure that the Santa Ynez River ecosystem remains strong and vibrant. I hope the Coastal Conservancy supports this proposal being submitted by the Land Trust for Santa Barbara County.

Sincerely,

Tom McClintock

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tom McClintock", written over a horizontal line.

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COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 942849
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0035
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101 W. ANAPAMU ST., SUITE A
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(805) 564-1649
FAX (805) 564-1651
201 E. FOURTH ST., SUITE 209-A
OXNARD, CA 93030
(805) 483-9808
FAX (805) 483-8182

Assembly California Legislature



PEDRO NAVA
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, THIRTY-FIFTH DISTRICT

COMMITTEES:

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CHAIR, JOINT COMMITTEE ON
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TOXIC MATERIALS
WATER, PARKS AND WILDLIFE
CALIFORNIA OCEAN PROTECTION
COUNCIL
CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION
LITTLE HOOVER COMMISSION

April 16, 2007

Mr. Doug Bosco, Chairman
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, CA 94612

**Re: Support of Rancho La Vina Bank Stabilization Project, Santa Ynez River,
Santa Barbara County.**

Dear Mr. Bosco:

As the California State Assemblymember for the 35th District, I would like to voice my strong support for your support for the Rancho La Vina Bank Stabilization Project on the Santa Ynez River in Santa Barbara County. This project will go a long way to protect and enhance instream habitat for the endangered steelhead on the mainstem of the Santa Ynez River below Bradbury Dam, improve existing habitat by increasing the quality of habitat for steelhead, and increase public awareness and support for beneficial actions on private lands.

According to the Steelhead Restoration and Management Plan for California (DFG 1996), legislation found that protection and restoration must be accomplished primarily through the improvement of stream habitat and to recognize and encourage the participation of the public in mitigation, restoration, and enhancement programs in order to protect and increase natural spawning salmon and steelhead resources.

The Land Trust for Santa Barbara County, in cooperation with other agencies and private landowners, will dramatically improve habitat restoration for the endangered steelhead. For these reasons, I highly recommend that this valuable project receive the California Coastal Conservancy's support. Please feel free to contact my staff at (805) 564-1649 to discuss this matter further. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Pedro Nava
Assemblymember, 35th District



Cachuma Resource Conservation District

USDA Service Center - 920 East Stowell Road - Santa Maria, CA 93454 - Phone: (805) 928-9269 - Fax: (805) 928-9644
Internet: www.carcd.org E-mail: cachumarcd@nacdnet.org

March 28, 2007

Mr. Douglas Bosco
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, STE 1300
Oakland, CA 94612

ATTN: Carol Arnold

RE: Rancho La Vina Bank Restoration Project, Santa Ynez River, Santa Barbara Co.

Dear Board President Bosco,

This letter is to show support for the project proposed by the California Conservation Corps called the Rancho La Vina Bank Restoration Project on the Santa Ynez River. Cachuma Resource Conservation District (RCD) is dedicated to assisting landowners conserve natural resources on their properties throughout Santa Barbara County. This project will be the largest bioengineered project that anyone has implemented in Santa Barbara County, and if successful will be a model for other ecologically beneficial projects throughout the central coast.

The CCC is asking for \$90,000 to cover heavy equipment costs, dewatering materials and Land Trust of Santa Barbara (LTSB) administrative costs. This is a multi-agency collaboration with DFG and NOAA funding with landowner participation and matching funds. This is exactly the type of project that we would like to see implemented in Santa Barbara County. If you have any comments or questions about our support for this project or the LTSB or CCC's track record for implementing successful projects locally, please call me.

Thank you for your consideration of the proposal.

Sincerely,

Thomas R. Lockhart
District Manager

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COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Ventura Fish and Wildlife Office
2493 Portola Road, Suite B
Ventura, California 93003



IN REPLY REFER TO:
PAS: 3341.5067.7158

April 19, 2007

Doug Bosco, Chairman
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1300
Oakland, CA 94612

Subject: Rancho La Vina Bank Stabilization Project, Santa Ynez River, Santa Barbara County

Dear Mr. Bosco:

We would like to express our support for the Land Trust of Santa Barbara County's subject project located on a privately-owned property, Rancho La Vina, ten miles west of the City of Buellton. The proposed project would stabilize eroding stream banks and restore roughly six acres of native riparian habitat at the site. In addition to providing benefits to the federally endangered southern California steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), the project would also provide benefits to the federally endangered southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax trillii extimus*) and least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*), and the federally threatened California red-legged frog (*Rana aurora draytonii*). The southwestern willow flycatcher, least Bell's Vireo, and California red-legged frog depend on the availability and quality of both the aquatic and upland riparian habitats that occur on the Santa Ynez River are known to either breed, forage, or disperse within roughly ten miles of the proposed project site.

Connectivity between suitable breeding, foraging, and resting habitats in the region is essential for the recovery of federally-listed species, as habitat fragmentation and habitat loss continue to threaten their long-term survival. Collaborative conservation projects with private landowners on this particular stretch of the Santa Ynez River, between Highway 101 and Vandenberg Air Force Base, would help to link habitats between the surrounding and upstream public lands and the downstream military lands. Many landowners have been unwilling to work with the various resources agencies on restoration projects in the past, but through collaborative projects such as the one proposed at Ranch La Vina, landowners and resources agencies may be able to find common ground. The proposed project would hopefully promote more conservation actions on private lands in the region and assist with improving connectivity in this important native wildlife corridor.

If you have any questions, please contact Mary Root of my staff at (805) 644-1766, extension 233.

Sincerely,

Steve Henry
Assistant Field Supervisor

cc: Carol Arnold



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service
NOAA Restoration Center
777 Sonoma Ave., Room 325
Santa Rosa, CA 95404-6528
Tel (707) 575-6080
Cell (707) 478-5789
Fax (707) 578-3435
Kit.Crump@noaa.gov

April 18, 2007

To: Douglas Bosco, Chairman, State Coastal Conservancy, 1330 Broadway Street, 13th Floor, Oakland, CA 95814
From: Donald "Kit" Crump, NOAA Restoration Center Southwest (NRSW)
Re: Letter of Support for the Rancho La Vina Bank Stabilization Project, Santa Ynez River, Santa Barbara Co.
Attn: Carol Arnold

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter to express the strong support of the NOAA Restoration Center for the bank stabilization project on the mainstem of the Santa Ynez River on the Rancho La Vina property. The Santa Ynez River is a critical watershed for the recovery of the Southern California Steelhead Distinct Population Segment. The Santa Ynez River is one of four major Steelhead watersheds that make up the region known as the Monte Arido Highlands Biogeographic Population Group in Santa Barbara and Ventura counties. There are five of these Biogeographic Population Groups in the Southern California Distinct Population Segment. The Monte Arido Highlands are unique in that this area is made up of four relatively large populations (watersheds) as compared to the other four population groups, and so recovery efforts in these larger watersheds or independent populations is vital to the recovery of the Southern Steelhead. In order for restoration efforts to have the greatest benefit for federally listed salmonids, they must address major factors limiting recovery and must take place in each of the Biogeographic Population Groups within each Distinct Population Segment so that the unique adaptations to local environments are not lost to extinction.

Sedimentation of spawning and rearing habitat is a major factor limiting recovery in the Santa Ynez River and the Southern California Steelhead Distinct Population Segment as a whole. This project addresses one of the major limiting factors in a key watershed and is therefore a high priority restoration and recovery effort. Sedimentation is also called out by the Santa Ynez River Technical Advisory Committee and the Steelhead Management tasks documented by the California Department of Fish and Game as a major limiting factor for this watershed.

The Land Trust of Santa Barbara County and the California Conservation Corps have demonstrated success in getting high priority projects done in a timely and effective manner. It is our hope that the State Coastal Conservancy will choose to fund this very important effort.

Please contact me if you have any questions and thank you for your consideration of this project.

Sincerely

Donald "Kit" Crump
NOAA Restoration Center



**CACHUMA
CONSERVATION
RELEASE BOARD**

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Water District

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Goleta Water District

Montecito Water District

3301 LAUREL
CANYON ROAD
SANTA BARBARA
CALIFORNIA
93105 – 2017

TEL 805 569-1391
FAX 805 569-5825

April 16, 2007

Doug Bosco, Chairman
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1300
Oakland, CA 94612
Fax: (510) 286-0470

ATTN: Janet Diehl / Carol Arnold

RE: Support of Rancho La Vina Bank Stabilization Project,
Santa Ynez River, Santa Barbara County.

Dear Chairman Bosco,

The purpose of this letter is to express the support of Cachuma Conservation Release Board (CCRB) for the California Conservation Corps' (CCC) funding application to the California Coastal Conservancy for the bank stabilization project along the Lower Santa Ynez River, Santa Barbara County, on Rancho La Vina. The project is designed to protect and enhance instream habitat for steelhead on the mainstem of the river below Bradbury Dam by creating "opportunities for successful reproduction and survival of anadromous steelhead trout" while reducing sediment production in the river.

Erosion issues and high sediment production in the Lower Santa Ynez River is a well documented impairment to the ecosystem of the river and riparian corridor that is of sufficient magnitude to have the river listed on the US-EPA 303(d) list for sedimentation below Bradbury Dam. The river has eroded multiple acres of agricultural lands causing sediment to be washed into the river and degradation of potential spawning habitats. With no root systems to stabilize and protect the bank, the channel can freely migrate and further the erosion issues.

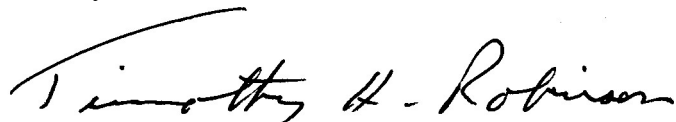
The CCC proposes to stabilize approximately 1500 feet of river bank using a combination of grading, planting, and stabilization structures. Rearing requirements for southern steelhead would be met by reducing velocities along the bank and sediment production, as well as adding root structure for development of riparian vegetation that would produce cover and shade the river to reduce thermal heating for the rearing juvenile steelhead in that section of the river. All of these

activities are in line with habitat restoration efforts outlined in the Lower Santa Ynez Fish Management Plan that CCRB administers on behalf of the US Bureau of Reclamation and the five water districts that receive water from the Cachuma Project.

According to the Steelhead Restoration and Management Plan of California (DFG 1996), legislation found that protection and restoration must be accomplished primarily through the improvement of stream habitat in order to protect and increase natural spawning of steelhead. We are in full support of the California Coastal Conservancy funding this project for its public benefit and in support of the southern steelhead. We hope that this project will serve as an exemplary effort for further restoration along the Lower Santa Ynez River.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Timothy H. Robinson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial 'T'.

Timothy H. Robinson, PhD
Sr. Resources Scientist
trobinson@cachuma-board.org

1845 Las Flores Drive
Glendale, CA 91207

April 9, 2007

Doug Bosco, Chairman
California Coastal conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1300
Oakland, CA 94612

ATTN: Carol Arnold

Re: Support of Rancho la Vina Bank
Stabilization Project, Santa Ynez River, Santa
Barbara Co.

Dear Mr. Bosco:

I am the eldest of the current owners of Rancho la Vina—land that has been in our family since 1869. We all very much treasure this heritage, and wish to see our subsequent generations continue in agriculture. To do so, we must give something back to nature while we continue to farm.

My earliest memories of the Santa Ynez River are in the early 1940s, with the river raging in the winter, but in the summer fishermen pulling out steelhead trout.

During my lifetime I have seen a decrease in fishing, while we have lost to the river: one complete low-lying field (a small pasture); portions of others; and had still others close to the river badly damaged by flooding and depositions of sand, even though we maintained generous strips of native growth between our fields and the river.

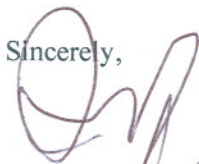
I understand that a river must be allowed generally to run its course so as to create its richest environment as a habitat, but at the moment the more recent several floods have taken out our old buffer of native growth, along with more tillable acres.

The proposed bank stabilization project will greatly shorten the time required to gain renewed natural growth, and along a stretch of river that has seen increasingly sparse habitat due to periodic flood erosion.

We want to participate in this stabilization program, and to help set an example for other river bottom owners of what can be done to restore this habitat.

We strongly urge your support for this project.

Sincerely,



William C. Baer

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OAKLAND, CALIF.